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Wednesday, March 27, 2019 metro.us | t: MetroPhilly | f: Me

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# CHARGES DROPPED

## CHICAGO MAYOR AND POLICE OUTRAGED

Jussie Smollett cleared of all charges but must perform community service and forfeit his bond. 4-5



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## THINGS TO KNOW

Latest demonstration by student-led movement marks one year since D.C. protest.

March for Our Lives students placed gun violence prevention art on the U.S. Capitol grounds on March 26, 2019, in Washington, D.C. March 24 marked the one-year anniversary of March for Our Lives, the national demonstration which saw students, teachers and parents march against gun violence, spurred largely by the shooting that took place at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, where 17 people died on Feb. 14, 2018.

# March for Our Lives students place gun violence prevention art installation on Capitol grounds



ALL GETTY IMAGES

## US chief justice rejects bid to block 'bump stocks' gun ban

**2** U.S. Chief Justice John Roberts on Tuesday rejected a bid by gun rights activists to put on hold a ban by President Donald Trump's administration on "bump stock" gun attachments that enable semi-automatic weapons to be fired rapidly. Justice Sonia Sotomayor has not yet acted on another similar request. The ban goes into effect on Tuesday but lower courts have yet to rule on an appeals brought by gun rights

activists in Michigan and the U.S. capital. Trump pledged to ban the devices soon after a gunman used them to shoot and kill 58 people at a country music festival in Las Vegas in October 2017. The Justice Department on Dec. 18 announced plans to implement the policy. A Washington-based federal district court judge in February upheld the ban, prompting gun rights advocates to appeal to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit.

## Google Glass helps kids with autism read facial cues

**3** Children with autism may have an easier time reading facial expressions and navigating social interactions when they use Google Glass paired with a smartphone app, a small experiment suggests. The system, dubbed "Superpower Glass," helps them decipher what's happening with people around them, researchers found. The experiment included 71 children, ages 6 to 12, who were receiving a standard treatment for autism

known as applied behavioral analysis therapy. This type of therapy typically involves using structured exercises like flash cards depicting faces to help kids learn to recognize different emotions. Forty kids were randomly assigned to use the "Superpower Glass" system — glasses with a camera and speaker that sent information on what children saw and heard to a smartphone app designed to help them decode and respond to social interactions.



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## NEWS



Smollett leaves with attorney Patricia Brown Holmes, right, following his court appearance. ALL GETTY IMAGES

# Chicago mayor blasts prosecutors for dropping Jussie Smollett hoax charge

Charges were dismissed.

Chicago prosecutors on Tuesday dropped charges accusing "Empire" actor Jussie Smollett of staging a phony hate crime, a stunning move that drew the fury of the city's police superintendent and mayor, who called the decision a "whitewash of justice."

Smollett, who is black and gay, told reporters on Tuesday that he had always been truthful when he said two masked men threw a noose around his neck and poured chemicals on him while yelling racist and homophobic slurs and expressing support for U.S. President Donald Trump in January.

But Mayor Rahm Emanuel lambasted the surprise reversal by Cook County prosecutors, emphasizing that a grand jury concluded the attack was a hoax and hammering Smollett as indecent for claiming to be a victim.

"This is a whitewash of justice," Emanuel told a news conference. "From top to bottom, this is not on the level."

The mayor's comments capped a dizzying three hours that began at a brief court hear-

ing on Tuesday, when prosecutors abruptly announced they were abandoning the case. In a statement after the hearing, the office of the Cook County State's Attorney cited Smollett's prior community service and his willingness to forfeit his \$10,000 bond, calling it a "just disposition."

## \$10K

The State's Attorney's office cited Smollett's prior community service and willingness to forfeit his \$10,000 bond, calling it a "just disposition."

Smollett, his lawyers and his family hailed the move as vindication of his account, which had touched off a furor in the United States, where Trump's 2016 presidential victory has fueled increasingly heated political divisions.

The backlash from Emanuel and Chicago Police Superintendent Eddie Johnson — who said he was unaware of prosecutors' plans beforehand — made clear

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Actor Jussie Smollett appears outside of court after it was announced that all charges against him had been dropped.

the Jan. 29 incident remains clouded by unanswered questions.

"Do I think justice was served? No," Johnson told reporters. "I think this city is still owed an apology."

Prosecutors did not respond to requests for a response to those comments.

The Cook County State's Attorney's office said it viewed the outcome as appropriate, though prosecutors also said they stood by the initial decision to charge Smollett with filing a false report.

First Assistant State's Attorney Joseph Magats told the Chicago Sun-Times that the decision to drop the case did not mean Smollett is innocent of the charges, or that he was a victim. He said prosecutors used the same criteria in determining Smollett's fate that they do for any defendant, noting that the actor has no felony criminal background and was not accused of a violent crime.

"The fact there was an alternative disposition in this case is not and should not be viewed as some kind of admission there was something wrong with the case," he told the newspaper.

Initial reports of the attack bolstered critics of the president who say his rhetoric has encouraged racial violence, and Smollett earned widespread sympathy from celebrities and some Democratic presidential candidates.

But police arrested Smollett on Feb. 21, accusing the actor of pay-

ing two brothers \$3,500 to stage the attack in an effort to use the notoriety to advance his career.

The allegations against Smollett gave fresh ammunition to Trump's supporters, who argue the press is too quick to embrace any news that casts the president in a negative light.

The brothers were arrested after getting captured on surveillance footage near the site of the alleged assault. Police said in February they had confessed to their role in Smollett's plot and were released without charges. One of them had worked with Smollett on "Empire," Fox's hip-hop TV drama, according to police.

Smollett, who plays a gay musician on "Empire," had pleaded not guilty to the charges against him on March 14.

"I've been truthful and consistent on every single level since day one," Smollett told reporters earlier on Tuesday outside a Chicago courthouse, where he posed for photos with supporters after a brief court hearing during which prosecutors abandoned the case.

Emanuel said Smollett's actions had dragged Chicago's reputation through the mud and also would make it harder for victims of hate crimes to have their stories believed.

"How dare him? How dare him?" a visibly angry Emanuel said. "Is there no decency in this man?"

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# Powerball drawing climbs to \$750 million

You have until 10 p.m. Wednesday to enter.



**MICHAEL MARTIN**  
letters@metro.us

This year's biggest Powerball jackpot is almost one for the all-time record books.

The prize for Wednesday's multistate drawing has risen to \$750 million. No one picked enough correct numbers to claim \$625 million last Saturday. The odds of winning are a totally doable 1 in 292 million.

If someone hits the jackpot, it'll be the fourth-largest U.S. lottery prize in history. The biggest of all time is a \$1.59 billion Powerball drawing in January 2016, and the runner-up is a \$1.54 billion Mega Millions jackpot claimed last October. If the \$750 million goes unclaimed, the next Powerball drawing will move into the No. 3 all-time slot, currently held by a \$758.7 million winner from Massachusetts in August 2017.

If you're feeling lucky, you have until 10 p.m. Wednesday to enter the drawing at a local lottery retailer. Tickets cost \$2, and you can spend an additional \$1 per line for Power Play, a chance to multiply non-jackpot winnings.

To earn the top prize, a player has to match all six winning Powerball numbers. Last Saturday, some winners matched enough to score a surely disappointing \$2 million and \$1 million, the Washington Post reported.

Powerball points out that 1 in every 25 tickets wins something — at least a few dollars.

The last time New York City saw a big local winner was last December, when David Johnson of Brooklyn bought a winning Powerball ticket worth \$298.3 million.

Winners choose between receiving their winnings in an annuity, with payments over 30 years, or one lump-sum payment of a smaller amount. Just FYI: Financial pros say it's wiser to choose the latter option.

## Pats owner Kraft wants jury trial in prostitution case

Attorneys for New England Patriots owner Robert Kraft on Tuesday filed court papers requesting a jury trial on solicitation of prostitution charges stemming from a sting operation at a Florida massage parlor.

The documents also formally waive Kraft's right to an arraignment hearing and reiterate the not guilty plea he entered last month.

Kraft, 77, was charged in February with soliciting prostitution after police said he was captured on hidden camera footage engaging in sex acts with a worker at Orchids of Asia Day Spa in Jupiter, Fla.

The billionaire busi-



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nessman apologized for his actions in a written statement issued earlier this week.

"The last thing I would ever want to do is disrespect another human being," Kraft said in the statement. **REUTERS**

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# UFC champion Conor McGregor investigated for sexual assault in Ireland



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Mixed martial arts superstar Conor McGregor is being investigated by Irish police over a claim of sexual assault, the New York Times reported on Tuesday.

Early Tuesday morning, McGregor announced on Twitter that he was retiring from the Ultimate Fighting Championship, which has made him one of the world's highest-paid athletes. Forbes estimates he earned \$99 million last year.

"I wish all my old colleagues well going forward in competition," he tweeted. "I now join my former partners on this venture, already in retirement. Proper Pina Coladas on me fellas!"

McGregor hasn't been charged with a crime. In January, he was arrested, questioned about the claim and released, the Times said. An investigation is continuing. (In Ireland and much of Europe, a formal criminal charge does not necessarily follow an arrest.)

The woman making the assault allegation said it happened at the

Beacon Hotel, which sits on the outskirts of Dublin. McGregor has been a repeated guest at the hotel, usually booking its penthouse room, the Times reported. He last visited in December.

Ireland's police service would not confirm that McGregor was a suspect, the Times said.

On Tuesday afternoon, McGregor's spokesperson, Karen Kessler, issued a statement denying that McGregor's retirement was related to the Times report. "This story has been circulating for some time and it is unclear why it is being reported now," she said. "The assumption that the Conor retirement announcement today is related to this rumor is absolutely false. Should Conor fight in the future it must be in an environment where fighters are respected for their value, their skill, their hard work and their dedication to the sport."

Irish news media have been reporting on the case since late last year, without naming McGregor. Ireland's laws don't allow rape suspects

to be publicly named unless they have been convicted.

Volatile and colorful, McGregor is one of the faces most closely associated with mixed martial arts, even though he has fought only once since 2016. He lost that October 2018 match to Khabib Nurmagomedov.

In recent years, McGregor has repeatedly attracted headlines for violent incidents outside the ring. Last July, McGregor pleaded guilty to a disorderly conduct charge after he threw a hand truck at a bus window outside Barclays Center after a UFC promo event; two fighters suffered facial injuries from broken glass. In January, the Nevada Athletic Commission suspended him from fighting for six months and fined him \$50,000 after a fight broke out following his match with Nurmagomedov. He has an April 10 court date in Miami on charges of strong-armed robbery and criminal mischief; he allegedly smashed a man's cellphone at a nightclub earlier this month.

MICHAEL MARTIN

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# Philly DOH warns of potential HIV, hepatitis exposure at dental clinics

About 1,500 patients were urged to get tested immediately.



NATE HOMAN  
letters@metro.us

The city's Department of Health has urged patients of the three Trieu Dental Clinic branches in Philadelphia to get tested for HIV and hepatitis B and C following an investigation that revealed improper sterilization and injection safety practices.

According to CBS Philadelphia, the risk of infection is low, and the health department was not presently aware of any cases of infection. But health officials said hundreds of patients who may have been exposed should still get tested to rule out any



ISTOCK

infections.

All three of the locations — at 437 W. Chew Ave. in Olney; 5427 N. 5th St. in Olney; and 6536 Woodland Ave. in Elmwood — were closed Dec. 7 after an anonymous tip spurred an investigation into sanitary violations. These offices will remain closed until the health department determines that it is safe for patients to begin receiving treatment.

All dental patients have been notified and

urged to get tested by health care providers. The warning is specifically for patients who received treatment between Jan. 1, 2017, and Dec. 7, 2018.

According to NBC 10 Philadelphia, this warning applies to about 1,500 patients. "The sterilization and handling of used instruments on patients was not being cleaned appropriately or in a timely fashion," Dr. Steven Alles, director of disease control for the Philadelphia health department, told NBC 10. The health department has a hotline for any patients who have concerns or questions about their potential exposure to these blood-borne diseases. They are encouraged to call 215-218-2999 between the hours of 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.

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## NASA cancels first all-women spacewalk, citing too few spacesuits

What should have been a giant leap for womankind has turned into a stumble on the path to equality after U.S. space agency NASA canceled the first all-female spacewalk due to a lack of a spacesuit in the right size.

Anne McClain and Christina Koch had been due to step into history books in a spacewalk on Friday, during the final week of Women's History Month.

But McClain will now give up her place on the mission to her male colleague Nick Hague, NASA announced late Monday.

"Mission managers decided to adjust the assignments, due in part to spacesuit availability on the station," NASA said in a statement.

"McClain learned during her first spacewalk that a medium-size hard upper torso — essentially the shirt of the spacesuit — fits her best. Because only one medium-size torso can be made ready



GETTY IMAGES

by Friday, March 29, Koch will wear it."

Nearly 60 years after the first human blasted off into space, less than 11 percent of the 500-plus people who have traveled to space have been women, and spacewalk teams have either been all-male or male-female.

McClain and Koch were both part of the 2013 NASA class that was 50 percent women.

NASA said the decision to change the plan was made in consultation with McClain after a

spacewalk last week.

"Anne trained in M and L and thought she could use a large but decided after Friday's spacewalk a medium fits better," wrote spokeswoman Stephanie Schierholz on Twitter.

"In this case, it's easier (and faster!) to change spacewalkers than reconfigure the spacesuit."

The NASA announcement was met with disappointment and anger by many following the much-anticipated mission on social media, with some arguing an all-female spacewalk was overdue.

"I'm super disappointed about the all-woman spacewalk not happening as scheduled this Friday but I'm also super supportive of astronauts having the authority to say, 'I would be safer using a different piece of equipment,'" wrote Emily Lakdawalla, a senior editor at the U.S. nonprofit The Planetary Society. REUTERS



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# US attorney general plans to issue Robert Mueller report details within weeks

Barr had yet to reveal when the final public version will be ready.

U.S. Attorney General William Barr plans to issue in a matter of weeks a public version of the special counsel's report that found President Donald Trump's 2016 campaign team did not conspire with Russia, as Trump prepared to use the findings against his political opponents.

Democrats attempted to change the subject to health care after the report from Robert Mueller appeared to shatter their case that Trump was an illegitimately elected president.

A new Reuters/Ipsos poll found that 48 percent of Americans still

believed Trump worked with Russia to interfere in the 2016 presidential election, down 6 points since conclusions from the Mueller report came out on Sunday.

The poll found Trump's job approval rating had ticked up 4 points to 43 percent following release of the findings. There was a thirst for more information, as 57 percent of Americans said they wanted to see the entire report.

Barr released his own summary of the report's central findings on Sunday but said he needed more time to review the report to determine how much of it could be made public.

A Justice Department official said on Tuesday that Barr's plan was to release a public version

in "weeks, not months." Congressional Democrats have demanded Barr turn over the report to them by April 2, which would only leave a week for the Justice Department to complete its review.

The Justice official said there was no plan to share an advance copy of the report with the White House.

Some portions of Mueller's confidential report contain materials that arose during secret grand jury proceedings. Federal rules generally prohibit the government from releasing that information to the public.

The report also contains information about ongoing criminal investigations that Mueller referred to other U.S. attorneys' offices.

Barr had not yet re-

vealed a precise date for when the final public version might be ready.

The Justice Department had not commented on the Democrats' request that it be released to Con-

**"I think what happened was a disgrace."**

President Trump

gress by next week.

Trump and his top aides attacked unidentified political opponents for starting the campaign investigation, calling the actions treasonous and worth probing.

"I think what happened was a disgrace," Trump told reporters on a visit to the U.S. Capitol, where he had lunch with Republican senators.

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President Donald Trump.

REUTERS

Republicans also were out for retribution, with Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell saying he supported a push for an inquiry into potential missteps by law enforcement officials in their probe of Trump.

Sen. Chuck Schumer, leader of the Democratic minority in the Senate, leaped on a court filing from the Justice Department that said the entire

Obamacare health care law — the signature legislative accomplishment of Democratic President Barack Obama — should be struck down in the courts.

The law provides health care coverage for an estimated 20 million people, and Trump and his Republican allies, who see it as government overreach, have failed to replace it despite vows to

do so.

"It is a stark reminder of the difference between our two parties: Democrats are fighting to expand and improve health care coverage and lower costs while Republicans are trying to take it all away and raise costs," Schumer said on the Senate floor.

Republicans said during their lunch with Trump they discussed ways to improve the health care system.

Trump's re-election campaign launched fundraising drives in the aftermath of the Mueller report. "Democrats allowed this WITCH HUNT to go on for 2 YEARS. It's time to show them we're tired of their PARTISAN investigations," said one fundraising appeal.

Trump suggested he had been the victim of a smear campaign launched by senior officials in the Obama administration.

"It went very high up, and it started fairly low, but with instructions from the high-up," Trump told reporters, without offering details. "This should never happen to a president again." REUTERS



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|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
|   |   | 6 |   | 7 | 2 |   |   |   |
| 4 | 5 |   |   |   |   |   |   | 3 |
| 3 |   |   |   |   | 5 | 8 | 2 |   |
| 9 | 3 |   | 1 |   |   |   | 4 |   |
|   |   | 1 |   | 2 |   | 3 |   |   |
|   | 4 |   |   |   | 7 |   | 6 | 1 |
|   | 1 | 8 | 2 |   |   |   |   | 5 |
| 7 |   |   |   |   |   |   | 3 | 2 |
|   |   |   | 7 | 4 |   | 6 |   |   |

MEDIUM

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
|   |   | 6 |   | 7 | 2 |   |   |   |
| 4 | 5 |   |   |   |   |   |   | 3 |
| 3 |   |   |   |   | 5 | 8 | 2 |   |
| 9 | 3 |   | 1 |   |   |   | 4 |   |
|   |   | 1 |   | 2 |   | 3 |   |   |
|   | 4 |   |   |   | 7 |   | 6 | 1 |
|   | 1 | 8 | 2 |   |   |   |   | 5 |
| 7 |   |   |   |   |   |   | 3 | 2 |
|   |   |   | 7 | 4 |   | 6 |   |   |

HARD

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
|   |   |   | 5 |   |   |   |   | 6 |
| 1 |   |   | 6 |   | 8 |   | 5 |   |
| 6 |   |   |   | 9 |   |   | 3 |   |
|   | 3 | 1 | 2 |   |   | 6 |   | 5 |
| 5 |   |   |   |   |   |   |   | 4 |
| 9 |   | 4 |   |   | 7 | 3 | 2 |   |
|   | 4 |   |   | 1 |   |   |   | 8 |
|   | 9 |   | 7 |   | 4 |   |   | 3 |
| 3 |   |   |   |   | 2 |   |   |   |



Pat King  
Grumble Editor

### READER WRITE-INS:

#### CRAZY KIDS

Parents, may I have your attention: I love kids. I have kids. I was a kid. And when I was a kid (long ago), there were polite little signs in the subway cars that read: "Little enough to ride for free, little enough to ride your knee." Get it? Good.

— "Sheepshead Boy," Metro New York reader



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**Aries** Rise above adversity and strive to be your best. Make changes for the right reason, not because of what someone else does or says. Do things your way.



**Libra** Emotions will run high. Channel your energy into positive pursuits and living up to the promises you made to yourself. Don't let anyone take advantage of you or your generosity.



**Taurus** Take action and get things done. Whether at work, school or home, set a goal and don't stop until you meet your mark.



**Scorpio** Implement the changes you've been contemplating for so long. It's time to shake things up and live the life you desire. Love and romance should highlight your day.



**Gemini** Emotional matters will escalate if you let someone interfere in your personal affairs. Don't discuss your love life, domestic matters or finances to avoid conflict, discord and meddling.



**Sagittarius** Don't overreact or let anyone entice you to do something that isn't in your best interest. Make domestic and lifestyle improvements. Put your health first.



**Cancer** Dig in and get things done. Use your imagination and put your heart and soul into accomplishing your goals. Make love, romance and improve your life priorities.



**Capricorn** A little charm, intelligence and desire will get you where you want to go. Personal changes should reflect your lifelong dreams. Romance is in the stars.



**Leo** Live and learn. Be observant and question anything you don't understand. Don't feel you must make a change just because someone else does. Watching from the sidelines will pay off.



**Aquarius** You've got choices to make and you shouldn't let anyone interfere with your goals. Move forward and put your plans in motion secretly to avoid discord.



**Virgo** Look at what you can do, not at what you cannot. Don't let someone confuse you or cost you the chance to be a part of something great. Do what feels right.



**Pisces** Listen to suggestions, but don't stretch your budget or set impossible goals. If you stick to tried-and-true methods that have worked in the past, success will be yours. EUGENIA LAST

## LIFESTYLE

The center court at SPIN.  
ALL PHOTOS SPIN PHILADELPHIA

# A night at SPIN is always a win

SPIN Philadelphia offers a great time and a unique experience.

MOLLY GIVEN  
Molly.Given@metro.us

The city of Philadelphia is full of unique bars, restaurants and venues that have their own flair and appeal — but none are quite as fun as SPIN Philadelphia. You may have heard of the Center City hot spot, or perhaps you've seen some colorful Instagram posts from your pals having the time of their lives there. But if you haven't been to SPIN, it's hard to even explain — the atmosphere, activities, drinks and food are something you just have to see to believe.

SPIN opened its doors in the City of Brotherly Love just a few short years ago, and the 12,000-square-foot ping-pong bar has taken Philly by storm, and for good reason. Anyone can take a whack at becoming a ping-pong pro (or just try and hit it a few times with your friends) while soaking in the eclectic atmosphere and indulging in the upscale fare and tasty drinks. There are 16 Olympic-grade ping-pong tables ready to be



The Red Room.

used, impressive graffiti murals, a full bar, a VIP room and bar, a bathtub filled with ping-pong balls, a DJ booth, bleachers for viewing the epic action-packed games and much more.

During the week it is possible to walk off the street and jump in on some action, but it's recommended (especially for weekends) to book ahead. Private party and event reservations are also available. Whatever your needs are, SPIN accommodates them, whether it's shuffling

their furniture around to create more space for you to put in your gaming system (they've actually done that) or reserving a whole room and bar to yourself.

SPIN offers some incredible specials throughout the week as well, including on Wednesdays from 9 to 11 p.m. when ping-pong games are just \$10, or on Sundays when games are just \$9 all day. One of the most happening and special nights of the week, however, is definitely Friday night. On Fridays at

10 p.m., SPIN pays homage to their roots and offers communal games, prizes, exhibition matches and the opportunity to take on ping-pong pros.

SPIN also offers other unique events that happen every so often throughout the year. (You can check out SPIN Philadelphia's official website to view their full calendar.) All these events help to bring the community together in a social, active and unique way.

What's the best part of it all? Anyone who has

played a game of ping-pong knows the struggle of always having to run after that sneaky little ball. SPIN clears that situation up with their ball boys and girls picking up your balls throughout the game, so you can focus on winning or just having fun.

If you're not much of a pong player, don't sweat it. SPIN isn't just for vibrant rounds of ping-pong, it's also an incredible bar to hang out in. The main bar area is separate from the tables, creating a fun

space to sip on cocktails and munch on some tasty treats. SPIN offers plenty of enticing drafts and sought-after spirits, but their cocktails really take center stage. Their signature Marty Reisman cocktail (named after the great ping-pong champion) includes Montelobos Mezcal, Cosa Nostra shrub, pineapple and lime, while their Fishtown Throwdown concoction boasts Mt. Gay Rum, Cointreau, Peach Schnapps, English Breakfast Tea syrup and lemon. Mouthwatering food options include honey-roasted Thai peanuts, crispy shrimp bao buns, veggie tacos, Vietnamese lettuce wraps, dry-aged beef sliders and much more. SPIN also offers an enticing happy hour and catering menu. Whatever your fancy, SPIN has something on their menu to tickle it.

So if you're looking for a unique night out, a great bonding event with friends or you simply just want to drink and play pong, bounce on over to SPIN Philadelphia for an unforgettable experience.

SPIN Philadelphia is located at 211 S. 15th St. Visit [wearespin.com](http://wearespin.com) to check out their hours, book a reservation and learn more.

# The Cactus Blossoms

## on finding perfect harmony the 'Easy Way'



NATE RYAN

We sat down with the rising Americana duo ahead of their upcoming tour.



PAT KING  
patrick.king@metro.us

Minneapolis' The Cactus Blossoms have a sound that has a similar quality to what their name evokes. Their brand of gothic country and crystal-clear harmonies between half-brothers Page Burkum and Jack Torrey can silence a crowded room after the tears are done falling, creating music that is timeless and untouched by passing trends in pop music. The band became a live sensation after touring relentlessly behind their 2016 debut "You're

Dreaming," landing an opening slot with Kacey Musgraves and even being cast by David Lynch in the hallucinatory return of "Twin Peaks."

This year, the band is poised to have their big breakthrough as they have just released their long-awaited follow-up sophomore album "Easy Way" which sees them co-writing two songs with the Black Keys' Dan Auerbach. We had the chance to speak with Jack and Page ahead of their national headlining tour.

**The new album "Easy Way" is great and really expands upon your sound with some louder guitars and bigger instrumentation. What was writing and recording like this time around?**

Jack: This time around,

we had a few ideas kicking around but we started recording before we even had all the songs together because we just knew we were going to have to start working on it at some point, even if we were still playing a few shows. So it was really different going into the studio and experimenting with songs as they were being written. So that was a big difference and you know, playing larger guitars with really small amps.

Page: You know, I guess we've been touring for — what was it, Jack? I guess we released "You're Dreaming" in 2016, is that right? And so, that was recorded probably in 2015. Anyways, it's been kind of a long time. We've done a lot of touring since

then, so I think our sound is just evolving over time. I think people who've seen us live in the last couple of years aren't too surprised by anything on the record, but yeah, we've been adding a bit more electric guitar, and just following whatever ideas we have for songs, and however we feel, I guess.

**The style of country you play is of such a certain time and place, harkening back to some of the earliest country and rock duos like the Everly Brothers and the Louvin Brothers. It also seems like your sound could fit in with a lot of contemporary rock as well. Did you guys start playing that kind of music early on or was it something you came to later on?**

Jack: We definitely weren't playing country songs when we were kids. But me and Page used to play in the basement, just bass and drums and goof around. When we started playing songs and learning songs at different points, I started getting into a lot of folk music. Page started getting into stuff like Jimmy Rogers. So that's kind of when we started getting into songs and exploring all that old stuff.

Page: I would say before we were exposed to folk music and old country music we were big fans of Electric Light Orchestra and The Beatles and this French band called Air and Radiohead. Yeah, all sorts of things, and we didn't have a band at that point but we were into

all sorts of stuff. I think sometimes it takes a while to pull in some of your different influences over time to figure out the better recipe together, so I think that's what's happening.

**Yeah, it's hard to incorporate those musical left turns and have it not seem forced.**

Page: Yeah. I just mean if you learn a Woody Guthrie song and you love it, let's say you also like AC/DC. So it may take a while to learn how to put that together in a way — to find the things they love about those different styles and put them together. Sometimes I think we look more traditional than we really are. I'm not saying that I don't understand that. I mean, we played really classic

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country kind of stuff, so I can see how people would think we're really going for that. But I think that came out of what we were into at the time through our own limitations. We're not purists, I guess.

**Is it easy for you guys to get on the same page during the writing process or do you come to the table with your own defined ideas?**

Jack: That was definitely the difference between making this record. Not only do we get to write with Dan Auerbach for a couple of songs, but we were writing with each other a lot more this time around, so that definitely took the stress off. In the past it's always been writing songs and maybe just putting the finishing touch on something together, or something musical but not really digging into making the songs together. So that was a really fun thing.

**Page:** I think in our case — I mean, probably in most people's case, when they're collaborating, it usually starts with one

person's idea and then one or two other people might finish that idea to develop it in some way. But we've never sat down at a table and we're like "let's start with nothing" and write a song. It's always somebody's half-formed idea.

**What was it like working with Dan Auerbach?**

Jack: We were just, like, hanging around his studio, drinking coffee and working on song ideas together. It's totally without really an agenda, and you know, like I said, we hadn't been writing with each other much and we hadn't done anything like that, so it was pretty interesting seeing how people who are used to doing that, do it, and the kind of freedom you have to share ideas — good ideas, bad ideas — and just write a verse together. It was refreshing.

**Is it cool to see your band in this new breed of outsider country music that is becoming popular?**

**Your old tourmate Kacey Musgraves just won a ton of Grammys!**  
Page: Yeah! It's been fun

seeing her take off.

Jack: We got to see her play in Saint Paul and she won all those Grammys. That's pretty wild, man. To see, you know, someone like her who is not getting played on top country radio, but is still blowing things up. It's an honor to play with someone like her.



**You guys were featured in the last season of "Twin Peaks" playing the song "Mississippi." What was it like working with David Lynch?**

Page: Oh, Dave? He's great! This is off the record, right [laughs]?

Jack: We can't tell you! We didn't work with David for very long — we

were on set for a few hours max — but we really had a great time. Doing a scene was really fun because we were left in mystery, too. We didn't know if the song was going to get used, or how it would fit in, or if it was going to be in some scary scene — and it was. We actually got to watch it and they used most of the song. It was pretty wild.

**What was it like being on set?**

Page: We really haven't spent a lot of time on any TV show or movie like that. It was a pretty big crew and everything, but it was pretty relaxed and they hardly gave us any direction about how to perform. In some ways it was like getting onstage for any gig we'd have. They'd been working on this show for forever, and so we just hopped onstage for a few minutes to do our part. But it was really cool just to take it all in and see a little Hollywood magic happen.

**Make sure to get tickets to see The Cactus Blossoms at Underground Arts on Wednesday, April 10.**

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# Taste good, feel good, do good

A.kitchen and a.bar are supporting worthy causes in a delicious way.

MOLLY GIVEN  
MollyGiven@metro.us

It's time to give back in the most delicious way possible with a.kitchen and a.bar. Both of these

Center City hot spots are teaming up with well-known organizations to help those in need and support worthy causes through the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society and PAWS.

Philadelphians can head to both popular eateries right now to show their support. According to the official

release, from Monday, March 25, through Sunday, March 31, a.bar and sister restaurant a.kitchen will donate a portion of their proceeds to the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society in support of former AKA team member Anne Pagsuguiro, who was diagnosed and treated for leukemia.

One hundred percent of the proceeds from their Fernet Branca-based cocktail, The Giving Tree, and every bottle of Peroni beer will go directly to the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. Plus, 50 percent of proceeds from Pagsuguiro's favorite dishes (crafted by the incredibly talented

Chef Eli Collins) will also go to the LLS. Philadelphians can support Pagsuguiro by indulging in Chef Collins' burrata (served with long-hot pesto and grilled Genzano bread) and confit pork belly (served with buttered brussels sprouts, farro and mustard jus) until March 31.

The tasty cocktail be-

ing featured this week is made with Pagsuguiro's favorite ingredients, Fernet Branca and mezcal. Head bartender Sean Macguire crafted The Giving Tree, which also boasts Dolin dry vermouth, lemon, egg white and Coca Cola. Philadelphians can sip on the tasty concoction at both locations.

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Then, on Sunday, April 28, from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m., a.kitchen and a.bar are teaming up with PAWS (Philadelphia Animal Welfare Society) to help out our adorable furry friends with their Hair of the Dog Happy Hour. PAWS volunteers will be on hand at a.bar with adoptable dogs (weather permitting), and the

bar will feature a special menu of drinks in partnership with local distillers Stateside vodka. A portion of all featured drink sales will be donated to support PAWS' honorable mission: saving Philadelphia's homeless and at-risk animals.

One of the featured cocktails includes the Old Dog New Tricks,

boasting Stateside vodka, grapefruit, Aperol, Combier and Yellow Chartreuse. A.bar will donate a portion of sales from all of the featured Stateside cocktails available from 3:30 p.m. until close to PAWS.

The Leukemia and Lymphoma Society is the largest funder of cutting-edge research to advance cures for blood

cancers. Their research saves lives: Revolutionary new treatments originally discovered through blood cancer research are now being tested in clinical trials for other cancers. To learn more about the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, visit [lls.org](http://lls.org).

PAWS is the city's largest rescue partner and provider of low-cost, basic veterinary care for pet owners and rescue organizations that cannot otherwise access or afford it. According to their website, PAWS is working to make Philadelphia a no-kill city where every healthy and treatable pet is guaranteed a home. PAWS has a boutique-style adoption center in Old City, a spray/neuter wellness clinic in Grays Ferry and an adoption center and low-cost clinic in the Northeast. To learn more about the Philadelphia Animal Welfare Society, visit [phillypaws.org](http://phillypaws.org).

A.kitchen and a.bar are located at 135 S. 18th St. To learn more, visit [akitchenandbar.com](http://akitchenandbar.com).

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# Big weekend ahead for SugarHouse SportsBook

The start of the Phillies season and the Sweet 16 are on tap.



MATT BURKE

Matt Burke is a veteran sports journalist and the Founder and Editor in Chief of MetroBet.

SugarHouse SportsBook has been buzzing this month and that's expected to keep up this week with the return of Major League Baseball and the second weekend of the NCAA men's basketball tournament.

"With baseball getting into full swing on Thursday, we continue to see interest in the wide variety of futures bets that we offer," SugarHouse Vice President and General Counsel Evan Davis told MetroBet. "We're also expecting a lot of people here in the sportsbook to watch and wager on Bryce Harper's



COURTESY OF SUGARHOUSE

Phillies debut."

SugarHouse has all the big MLB and Phillies prop bets including NL MVP (Harper is the favorite at +400), NL Cy Young (Aaron Nola has +750 odds) as well as Phillies World Series odds

(+1000). The book, located in Fishtown at 1001 N. Delaware Ave., also has some unique props that you might not find everywhere else. These include:

- Who will hit more home runs - Harper

(+105) or Rhys Hoskins (-139)?

- Nola over-unders in wins (14.5) and strikeouts (215.5)
- Any pitcher to register a perfect game? Yes (+350) No (-560)

And here are a look

at SugarHouse's NCAA odds as we prep for the Sweet 16, which starts on Thursday.

- Lowest odds: Duke +300, Virginia +400
- Highest odds: LSU +6000, Oregon +10000

## TWEET OF THE DAY



Ben Fawkes  
@BFawkesESPN

All 16 favorites in the NCAA tournament won in the Round of 32 for the first time this past weekend.

A \$100, 16-team ML parlay would've won \$8,226.23 (based on closing lines at @SuperBookUSA).

The biggest Sweet 16 underdog is Oregon at +8.5.

"The sportsbook was jumping during the first weekend of the NCAA tournament," Davis told MetroBet. "SugarHouse capped off the excitement by awarding a trip to the Final Four to one lucky bettor who used the QuickBet tool on our SugarHouse app, which allows customers to create their bets on their phones and then simply scan a QR code and pay at the sportsbook."

## Best Bets



DOC SPORTS  
@BigKatSports



Toronto Maple Leafs at Philadelphia Flyers

When the Flyers had their nice little 12-2 run about six weeks ago, they really weren't beating the better teams in the league. That push gave the team hope that there was a chance to make the playoffs, but those chances have all but vanished as they are eight points out of the last playoff spot with just six games to play. Throw in the fact that Toronto is firmly in the playoffs, along with the fact that the favorite is 6-2 in the last eight head-to-head meetings between the two teams, and we're going to lay what looks to be a short price with the Leafs to get the road win at Wells Fargo on Wednesday night.

**THE PICK:**  
Toronto Maple Leafs

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## Sports betting 101: How to bet on basketball

If your bracket was busted by 3 p.m. last Thursday, have no fear. You can still bet on all the games individually throughout the tournament at any of the local sportsbooks here in Philly.

Some of you may be betting on basketball for the first time, and we at MetroBet are here to help. Here is a beginners guide to betting on hoops.

For your first time, your best bet is to bet on the spread of the game. Here is an example of a typical college basketball spread:

**Duke -5 (-110)  
Virginia Tech +5 (+110)**

The -5 indicates that Duke is favored to win by five points or more. If you bet \$110 on Duke to win

by five points or more, you would win \$100. If you bet on Virginia Tech, the underdog here, you would need them to win the game outright or lose by five points or fewer to win.

Totals, or "over-unders," is another popular basketball bet. Essentially you bet on whether or not you think the two teams will combine to score

more or less than the total the sportsbook puts out. For instance, in the Big East Tournament title game between Villanova and Seton Hall earlier this month, the over-under was set at 135. The final score was Villanova 74, Seton Hall 72 - which combined was 146. If you bet the over in this high-scoring affair, you went home a winner. **MATT BURKE**



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# NL competitiveness yields good betting value

The Phillies have good betting odds relative to the AL's big boys.



Weather permitting, all 30 MLB teams will be on the diamond Thursday. That means time is running out to place futures bets before real-time adjustments are made during the season.

Though talented Boston is the defending world champion, the Bronx Bombers are current market favorites to win both the American League and the World Series. Here are this week's prices from

William Hill:

✱ Odds to win American League: NY Yankees 5/2, Houston 14/5, Boston 7/2, Cleveland 9/2, Oakland 14/1, Minnesota 14/1, LA Angels 15/1, Tampa Bay 17/1, Seattle 75/1, Chicago White Sox 75/1, Toronto 150/1, Texas 250/1, Kansas City 250/1, Detroit 500/1, Baltimore 500/1.

Granted, those prices are influenced by the proximity of Yankees fans to William Hill sportsbooks! But, global markets do see the Yankees as leaders of the pack wherever prices are posted. The Westgate in Las Vegas has its "Regular Season Win Total" at 97 for the Yankees, 96 for Houston, just 93.5 for Boston.

Once again, the AL is top-heavy with the usual



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suspects. You might as well wait until the playoffs begin to bet any of

the top four. Taking each team on a per-series basis would likely yield similar

returns.

✱ Odds to win National League: LA Dodgers 4/1, Philadelphia 11/2, Chicago Cubs 6/1, St. Louis 13/2, Washington 7/1, Milwaukee 10/1, Atlanta 10/1, NY Mets 11/1, Colorado 14/1, Cincinnati 30/1, San Francisco 30/1, Arizona 35/1, San Diego 50/1, Pittsburgh 60/1, Florida 500/1.

The senior circuit is much more complex, with nine teams priced lower than 15/1. Philadelphia was a popular betting choice for sharps even before it acquired Bryce Harper. You'll note that San Diego's signing of Manny Machado only lifted the Padres from distant also-ran to a less-distant also-ran.

In Queens, the Mets are projected to at least compete. The Westgate

has their Regular Season Win Total at 85.5, just a few games behind Philadelphia and Washington (both 89), but also behind Atlanta (86).

That wider range of competitiveness in the NL creates some nice payoffs on the World Championship ledger.

✱ Favorites to win the World Series: NY Yankees 5/1, Houston 6/1, Boston 15/2, LA Dodgers 8/1, Cleveland 10/1, Philadelphia 11/1, Chicago Cubs 12/1, St. Louis 13/1, Washington 14/1, Milwaukee 15/1, Atlanta 20/1, NY Mets 22/1.

The top three spots go to teams from the AL, but then eight of the next nine are in the NL. If you can make a good read on the right surprise, it will pay off. **JEFF FOGLE**

## Sports on TV Highlights

7:00 pm **NHL Hockey**  
Toronto Maple Leafs vs. Philadelphia Flyers



7:30 pm **NHL Hockey**  
New York Rangers vs. Boston Bruins



8:00 pm **NBA Basketball**  
Indiana Pacers vs. Oklahoma City Thunder



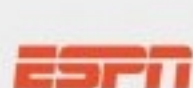
9:00 pm **Men's CBB**  
Lipscomb vs. NC State (NIT)



9:00 pm **Men's CBB**  
Colorado vs. Texas (NIT)



10:30 pm **NBA Basketball**  
Los Angeles Lakers vs. Utah Jazz



## Flyers vs. Maple Leafs betting preview

The Flyers' frustration boiled over on Sunday after a 3-1 loss to the Capitals that sunk them to 36-32-8 on the year, eight points out of a playoff spot as of Tuesday morning.

Another one of those marquee opponents in the East, the Toronto Maple Leafs (45-25-6), pay a visit to the Wells Fargo Center on Wednesday night, but their recent struggles suggest that they could be vulnerable against a motivated Flyers squad.

Toronto is just 3-5 over its last eight games, and though one of those wins was a 7-6 decision over Philly on March 15, Carter



Hart was not in net for the Flyers that night. Hart has been excellent in his last four starts, posting a .949 save percentage. Maple Leafs goaltending has

failed to hold an opponent to one goal or fewer since Jan. 5, a span of 37 games. There's value to be had with the home team here.

**ROBERT CRISCOLA**

## VSIN DAILY LINE

### NHL

TORONTO MAPLE LEAFS -135  
VS. PHILADELPHIA FLYERS +155

NEW YORK RANGERS +295 VS.  
BOSTON BRUINS -275

VEGAS GOLDEN KNIGHTS -120  
VS. COL AVALANCHE +140

### NBA

INDIANA PACERS VS.  
OKC THUNDER -5.5

LOS ANGELES LAKERS VS.  
UTAH JAZZ -13.5

GOLDEN STATE WARRIORS -8  
VS. MEMPHIS GRIZZLIES

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## SPORTS

Metro releases its predictions for the 2019 MLB season.



JOE PANTORNO  
joseph.pantorno@metro.us

In the irreproachability that was my childhood, I wasn't necessarily the social butterfly that many accuse me of being these days. I never "fit in" with the "it" crowd, never had an overabundance of friends until I learned the social norms.

My best friend was baseball.

Through it, I learned the facts of life, whether it was the ecstasy of victory, the harsh disappointments of a loss or the beautiful camaraderie that came with forming a bond with one's teammates, later to become friends.

I could name all the league leaders, the World Series winners, and I had my unyielding opinions on who the greatest men to ever play the game were.

There were summer days which I would devote to nothing but baseball, days to share with my father and grandfather, days that seem like a lifetime ago regardless of me being grouped in with the millennials. But those feelings of pure unadulterated adoration come rushing back annually on Opening Day, which is just a day away.

There is the promise of a new season. There is the recognition that we have trudged through another winter and made it back for another year of baseball; all of us together. There is another summer where our childhood is returned and refueled.

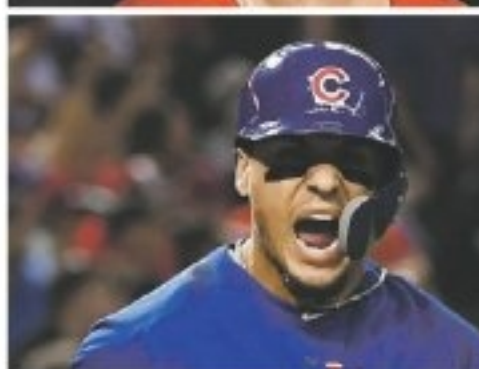
As we here at Metro provide you with our 2019 predictions for another glorious season of baseball, I wish you the most memorable of summers.

# Metro Philly's 2019 MLB Predictions:



## 2019 NL EAST PREDICTIONS

PHILADELPHIA PHILLIES: 93-69  
WASHINGTON NATIONALS: 90-72  
ATLANTA BRAVES: 89-73  
NEW YORK METS: 87-75  
MIAMI MARLINS: 64-98



## 2019 NL CENTRAL PREDICTIONS

CHICAGO CUBS: 92-70  
MILWAUKEE BREWERS: 91-73  
ST. LOUIS CARDINALS: 88-74  
CINCINNATI REDS: 80-82  
PITTSBURGH PIRATES: 78-84



## 2019 NL WEST PREDICTIONS

LOS ANGELES DODGERS: 95-67  
COLORADO ROCKIES: 85-77  
SAN DIEGO PADRES: 81-81  
ARIZONA DIAMONDBACKS: 76-86  
SAN FRANCISCO GIANTS: 73-89

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# Phillies make run toward NL Pennant



## 2019 AL EAST PREDICTIONS

NEW YORK YANKEES: 99-63  
BOSTON RED SOX: 97-65  
TAMPA BAY RAYS: 85-77  
TORONTO BLUE JAYS: 74-88  
BALTIMORE ORIOLES: 60-102



## 2019 AL CENTRAL PREDICTIONS

CLEVELAND INDIANS: 91-71  
MINNESOTA TWINS: 85-77  
CHICAGO WHITE SOX: 75-87  
KANSAS CITY ROYALS: 70-92  
DETROIT TIGERS: 69-93



## 2019 AL WEST PREDICTIONS

HOUSTON ASTROS: 99-63  
OAKLAND ATHLETICS: 86-76  
LOS ANGELES ANGELS: 83-79  
SEATTLE MARINERS: 71-91  
TEXAS RANGERS: 70-92

## AL WILD CARD

RED SOX def. ATHLETICS

**ALDS:** ASTROS def. SOX, YANKS def. INDIANS

**NLCS:** ASTROS def. YANKEES

## NL MVP

NOLAN ARENADO (ROCKIES)



## AL MVP

MIKE TROUT (ANGELS)



## NL CY YOUNG AWARD

MAX SCHERZER (NATIONALS)



## AL CY YOUNG AWARD

COREY KLUBER (INDIANS)



## NL ROOKIE OF THE YEAR

PETE ALONSO (METS)



## AL ROOKIE OF THE YEAR

ELOY JIMENEZ (WHITE SOX)



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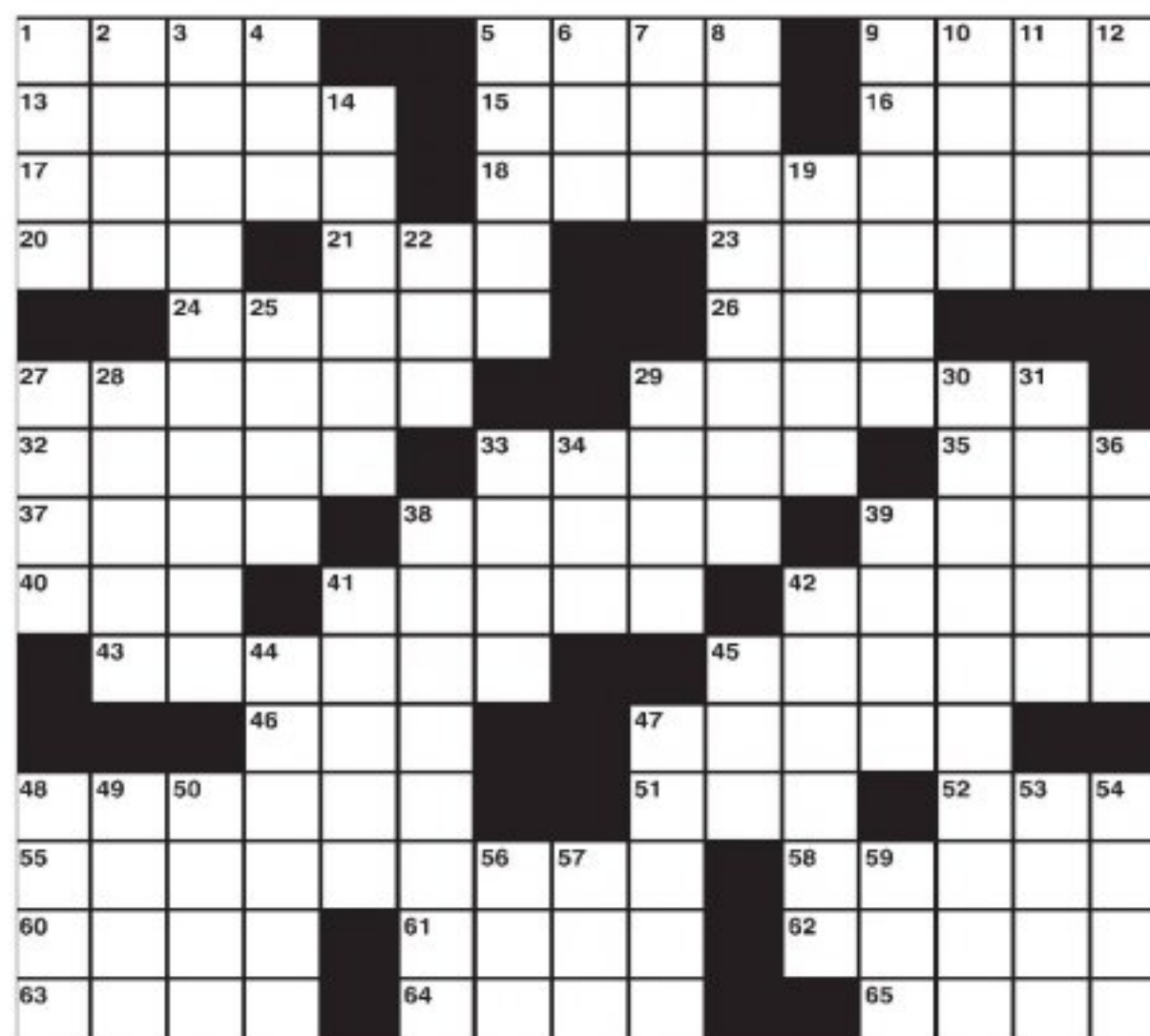
- 1 P Came down to earth  
5 As comfortable \_\_\_ old shoe  
9 Additionally  
13 Turner & others  
15 São \_\_\_; large island in the Gulf of Guinea  
16 Pompous  
17 Agassi or Previn  
18 Not loud enough to be heard  
20 Enjoy a winter sport  
21 Actor Kilmer  
23 Cooks prime rib  
24 Fragrance  
26 Not at home  
27 Popular Honda model  
29 Items listed in a will  
32 Cut up a turkey  
33 Misrepresent  
35 Walk-\_\_\_; many NYC apartments  
37 Ash or alder  
38 Gathers crops  
39 Threesome  
40 "We're off to \_\_\_ the Wizard..."

- 41 Phobias  
42 Written slander  
43 Not as fresh  
45 Tenor Enrico  
46 Olive Oyl's hairdo  
47 Absorbent cloth  
48 Shocked  
51 Trigger's rider  
52 Common street name  
55 Fraternal  
58 "Sesame Street" fellow  
60 Alleviate  
61 Wishes one hadn't done  
62 Hudson's namesakes  
63 Prepared Easter eggs  
64 In a \_\_\_; pouting  
65 Buzzers

## DOWN

- 1 "Woe is me!"  
2 Long and thin  
3 Not prudent in speech  
4 Street paver's need  
5 Slanted  
6 Barron, to Donald  
7 "I \_\_\_ Rock"; 1960s song  
8 Mild emotional disorder  
9 Fly  
10 Good-natured dogs, for short

- 11 Gritty residue  
12 Change for a five  
14 Harsh  
19 Throw water on  
22 Most common conjunction  
25 Sheltered bay  
27 Plays a role  
28 Is concerned  
29 Mont Blanc's location  
30 Agitation; commotion  
31 Secret agents  
33 Dangerous animal  
34 Cochlea's place  
36 Song for one  
38 Goes in again  
39 Grow weary  
41 Straight beater  
42 Brief preparer  
44 Lessened  
45 Pigeon's cry  
47 Lovers' meeting  
48 Not up yet  
49 Elephant's color  
50 Nylons  
53 Similar to  
54 Soldier's meal  
56 \_\_\_ away; flee  
57 Garland  
59 Steal from



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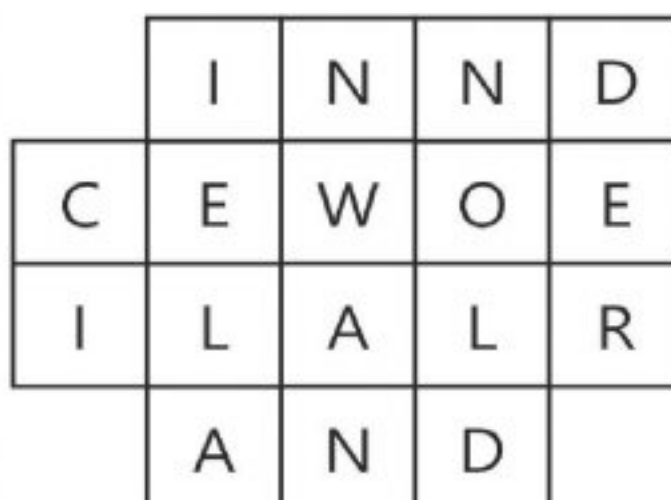
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## Yesterday's Answers



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# ANXIETY

**ARE YOU OFTEN WORRIED, TENSE, STRESSED, NERVOUS, FEARFUL OR OVERLY CONCERNED?**

**ALWAYS WORRYING ABOUT THE "WHAT IFs"?**

If you are an adult experiencing symptoms of ANXIETY, you may be interested in participating in a clinical research study.

**Qualified Participants May Receive Study-Related:**

- INVESTIGATIONAL DRUG
- FOLLOW-UP VISITS
- COMPENSATION UP TO \$700 FOR TIME AND TRAVEL



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# DEPRESSION

**IT INTERFERES WITH THE ABILITY TO WORK, SLEEP, EAT AND ENJOY LIFE.**

If you are on an antidepressant and still experiencing symptoms of depression, a clinical research study may be your next step.

**QUALIFIED PARTICIPANTS MAY RECEIVE STUDY-RELATED:**

- INVESTIGATIONAL DRUG ALONG WITH ANTIDEPRESSANT MEDICATION
- FOLLOW-UP VISITS • MAY BE COMPENSATED FOR TIME AND TRAVEL



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